

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 07164 261255Z

43

ACTION MMO-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-03 ABF-01 NSC-05

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R 261202Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2715

UNCLAS JIDDA 7164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, CGEN

SUBJECT: URGENT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER

REFS: (A) JIDDA 5763; (B) STATE 201219

1. WE APPRECIATE BUREAU'S RESPONSIVENESS IN ESTABLISHING
ADDITIONAL FSL CONSULAR POSITION. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST
WHEN POSITION AUTHORIZED FOR PAYROLLING PURPOSES.

2. WE ALSO HOPE THAT BUREAU WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE
ADDITIONAL AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICER WITH ARRIVAL JIDDA
IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. AS INDICATED REFTEL (A), WORKLOAD
STATISTICS AT THIS POST DEMONSTRABLY JUSTIFY ASSIGNMENT
OF ANOTHER OFFICER.

3. FAST BUILDUP OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN RIYADH, NOW
NUMBERING SEVERAL THOUSAND AMERICANS AND REQUIRING MORE
ADEQUATE CONSULAR SERVICING, PLUS PLEAS OF AMERICANS IN
TAIF, TABUK AND OTHER OUTPOSTS IN THE FAR-FLUNG REACHES OF
THE KINGDOM WHERE THEY ARE CENTERED, FOR MORE FREQUENT VISITS
BY CONSULAR OFFICER MAKE IT ESSENTIAL THAT ANOTHER OFFICER
BE ASSIGNED SOONEST.

4. ONE OFFICER SIMPLY CANNOT HANDLE THE PRESENT WORKLOAD,
AND, WHEN HE GOES ON R&R OR OTHERWISE TAKES LEAVE, HIS
RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TAKEN OVER BY ONE OR MORE OFFICERS
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE TO DETRIMENT OF THEIR PRIMARY
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 07164 261255Z

DUTIES AND ON-GOING OPERATIONS. SHUFFLING PEOPLE FROM

OFFICE TO OFFICE BREEDS INEFFICIENCY, DISRUPTS THE ORDERLY
FLOW OF BUSINESS, AND CAN EASILY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON PERSONNEL.

5. WE SHALL APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S OBJECTIVE EVALUATION
OF THIS REQUEST. WE SUGGEST IT WEIGH THE REPORTED WORKLOAD
HERE WITH OTHER CONSULAR OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE, TAKING
ALSO INTO CONSIDERATION THAT THE JIDDA CONSULAR DISTRICT
IS VAST IN SIZE AND POPULATED WITH A GROWING NUMBER OF
AMERICAN CITIZENS DEMANDING CONSULAR SERVICES. (WE SHOULD
POINT OUT THAT MOST AMERICANS UPCOUNTRY CAN TRAVEL TO
JIDDA ONLY ON WEEKENDS WHEN EMBASSY IS CLOSED, AND THAT
EXPENSE AND INCONVENIENCE OF TRAVEL HERE POSE GREAT
DIFFICULTIES TO THEM.)

6. WE LOOK FORWARD TO DEPARTMENT'S EARLY RESPONSE.
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